

Spanish Fork Water Commissioner

John F. Mendenhall

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WATER RIGHTS  
SALT LAKE

July 20, 2000

Spanish Fork City  
Mayor Dale Barney  
Richard Heap, City Engineer  
40 South Main  
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Dear Sirs

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the City Council July 11, 2000. I am grateful for the willingness of the Spanish Fork officials to listen to my concerns and the city's cooperation in water matters.

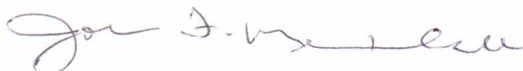
This letter is to inform you of the serious nature of the water shortage this year. One week after meeting with the city council, matters are actually worse than thought. Water consumption continues to rise and river flows continue to decrease. As of today, the South East Field Well has not been pumped into the Mill Race in order to receive credit to off-set the deficit of water credit in the Spanish Fork River and now it would appear that it will be impossible to build one thousand acre feet of credit before the irrigation season ends. Also, at this time, it is almost certain that one thousand acre feet of credit will be much less than the amount of credit that will be needed to satisfy the deficit that Spanish Fork City will incur this year.

It is my understanding that when an appropriator is out of water, Utah State statute requires the water commissioner of that system to shut off delivery of water to that appropriator. Already this season I have been forced to deny delivery of water to appropriators in the Spanish Fork Canyon area and it appears that several canal companies in the southern end of Utah Valley will also be out of water before the irrigation season ends and will also be shut off. If Spanish Fork City exceeds it's decreed share of the Spanish Fork River and it's Strawberry Reservoir rights, I will have no other choice than to treat Spanish Fork City as any other appropriator on the Spanish Fork River System and deny delivery of water to the City.

It is my desire to avoid the potential problems that would result from the denial of water delivery to Spanish Fork City. If other sources of water are available I would suggest that those options be exercised immediately, and that conservation measures be instituted as soon as possible. It should be noted that all other sources of water must be cleared with the Utah State Engineer's office before credit may be given and care should be taken that all water sources available to the City be in order with the State Engineer as far as the water rights are concerned before they may be utilized.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. I look forward to continued good relations with Spanish Fork City. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John F. Mendenhall

Spanish Fork Water Commissioner

Cc: Jim Riley